

Schools Analysis



Green Bay
Smart Growth 2022

Schools Analysis

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Schools Analysis

The Existing School System and Related Facilities

The Green Bay Area Public School District extends far beyond the boundaries of the City of Green Bay. In addition to the whole city, it covers the Village of Allouez, the Town of Scott and most of the Town of Bellevue. Public schools within the City are shown on Figure 11-1. In 2001, the District operates:

- Four high schools – East, Preble, Southwest and West
- Five middle schools – Edison, Franklin, Lombardi, Red Smith and Washington
- Twenty-five elementary schools with a K-6 configuration (the Red Smith School is a K-8 facility). Eight of these also provide pre-school programs.
- Two special schools: Aldo Leopold is a K-8 “magnet” school (open to any student in the district) with an emphasis on experiential learning; Bayview is a combined middle-high school (grades 7-12) special-education site.

Public High Schools: The District completed the renovation of the four public high schools in 2001, which are operating near capacity. The District owns a large site west of Grandview Road and south of Baird Creek for a possible fifth high school. Whether or when the District builds a fifth school there will depend on enrollment trends.

Public Elementary Schools: Each elementary school is located within its own attendance area; these vary in size depending on the population density of the area and the size of each school. The school

district’s policy in recent years has been to close some smaller schools and consolidate attendance areas in order to achieve economies of scale. Student transportation is viewed as less costly than maintenance of multiple small facilities.

About six of the attendance areas are currently considered to be overcrowded. Some overcrowding is due to class size reductions in certain schools to 15 students per classroom in grades K-3 (the district standard is 25 per classroom). Schools are designated for reduced class size based on percentage of low-income students (usually determined based on students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, which in turn is based on family income).

Elementary-school students are not bussed outside their neighborhood school attendance areas. Some bussing of middle-school students is conducted to improve racial/ethnic or economic balance between schools. The school district has an open enrollment program – students can attend schools in other districts and vice versa, depending on capacity.

School-Park Sites: About 20 schools in Green Bay share their campuses with parks or are located adjacent to parks or parkways. The school district promotes school-park cooperation and sharing of facilities.

Private Schools: There are twenty-seven private schools within the district (again, a larger area than the City). Most are affiliated with churches; there is one Montessori school and one school managed by the Oneida Nation (K-12). Two private high schools

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are N.E.W. Lutheran and Notre Dame Academy, located on West Mason Street.

Neighborhood Resource Centers

The Green Bay Neighborhood Resource Centers are an organization separate from the School District that helps families with children. There are presently three centers:

- Behind Howe Elementary School
- Fort Howard neighborhood
- In Nicollet School

School District representatives feel that the Neighborhood Resource Centers not only build better families but also better schools and neighborhoods. Thus, they would like to see this program expanded.

Child Day Care

Another priority of the school district is the provision of good quality before- and after-school child care and the use of schools as community centers during non-school hours. The District has initiated partnerships with the YMCA and day care providers for child care, and has offered after-school enrichment programs.

School Enrollment Trends

The school district makes its own population forecasts in order to determine the degree to which it will need to expand or reduce its facilities.

Based on the November 2000 *Enrollment Report*, the following trends will affect school enrollment in the coming decade:

- **Births** in Brown County generally increased from 1980 to 2000 period although births in Wisconsin declined during that period.
- There is expected to be a **decline in children entering kindergarten** during the 2001 to 2010 period. Based on 1990 census data, there is a continuing decline in the cohort of females aged 20 to 39 in Brown County – in other words, women of childbearing age. A decline of about 10 percent is projected between 1990 and 2000, and an additional 7 percent by 2010. This translates to a decline in births, and thus in children entering elementary school, during the 2000 – 2010 period.
- **In-migration** is not accounted for in population projections. In-migration – especially the noticeable increase in Hispanic and Asian populations in Green Bay – is a “wild card” that can potentially increase population beyond what is projected. Many of the immigrant families are of child-bearing age, increasing the potential impact on school enrollments. In 2001, there was a surprising increase of 300 students through in-migration; most of these were from Latino families. Latinos are now 10 percent (2,000 or 20,000) of the school district’s enrollment.

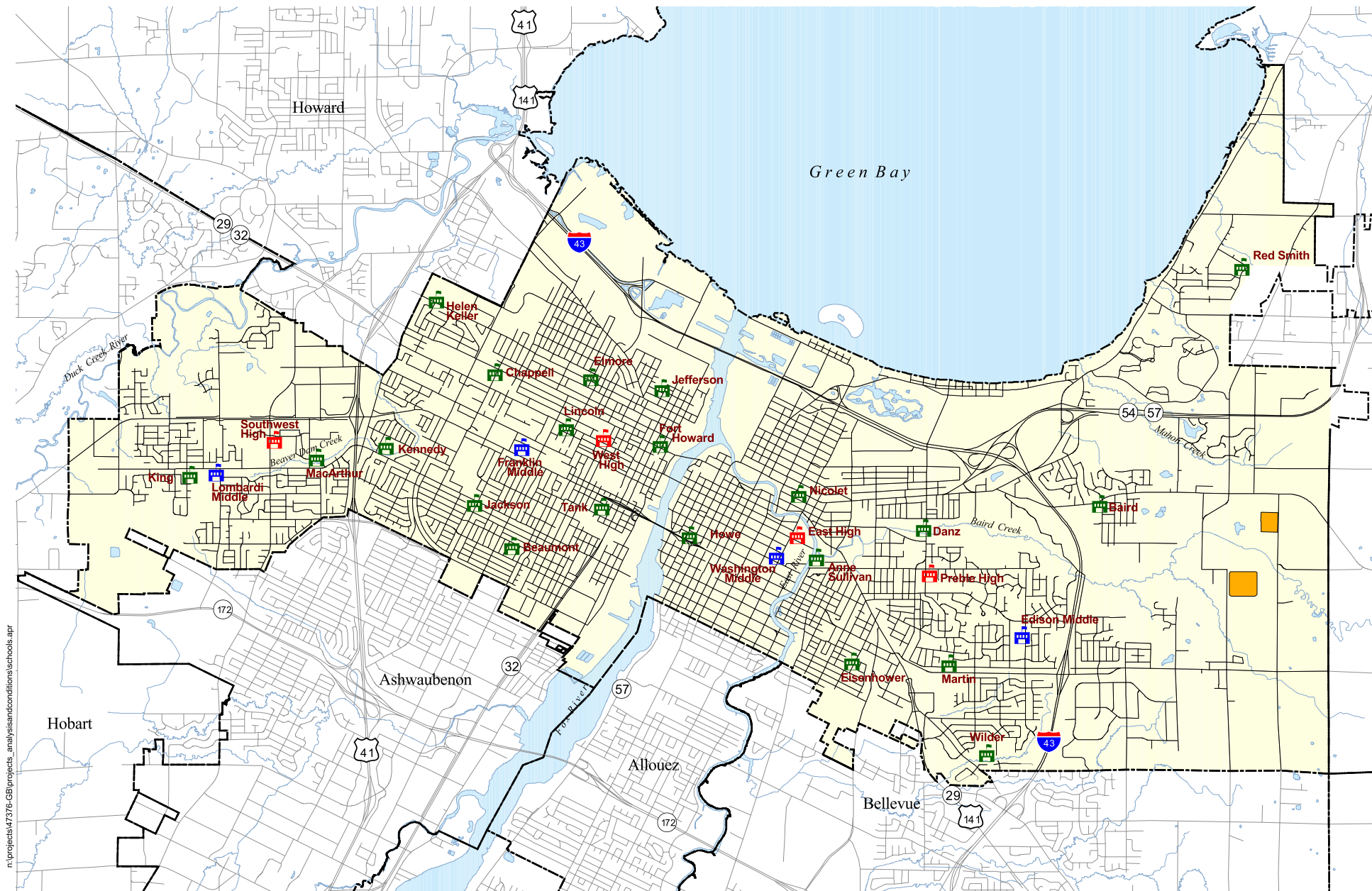


Figure 11-1
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- **Elementary school enrollment** peaked in the mid-1990s, and has declined since then. However, enrollment is higher than it was in the early 1980s – the district’s low point, with 16,000 students. The elementary schools are at full capacity, particularly those on the near east side of Green Bay, primarily as a result of in-migration of Hispanic families and the SAGE program (see below).
- **SAGE** is a very popular state-funded class size reduction program for grades K through 3 at elementary schools serving lower-income neighborhoods. Its aim is to keep class sizes no larger than 15 students. Smaller classes mean translate into a need for more classrooms, causing school space problems.
- **Secondary school enrollment** has continued to increase to a greater degree than was projected. The high schools are operating near capacity.
- Analysis of births within the school district from 1993 through 2000 suggests that **kindergarten enrollment** will decline through 2002-03, but may increase thereafter. However, kindergarten enrollment rose during the 2000-01 year from the previous year, apparently due to parent interest in the newly available all-day kindergarten.
- **Beyond 2010** there is expected to be an increase in the 0-4 age cohort of preschool children, resulting in increasing enrollment.
- The Green Bay area’s strong economy has fueled high labor force participation rates, and attracted in-migration. The high percentage of mothers with school age children in the labor force has increased the demand for quality **after-school care**. The *Enrollment Report* states: “How we help working families in our schools and businesses will impact living-location choices. It will be included in the quality considerations parents make.”

Student Population Demographics

In November 2000, total school district enrollment was 20,104. Private and parochial school enrollment within the Green Bay Public School District (again, a larger area than the City) was 5,455.

The **racial and ethnic make-up** of the current school population provides a useful window on citywide population trends. By percentage, the population can be categorized as follows:

Asian/Pacific	9.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.9
Hispanic	8.1
American Indian	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	75.0

This distribution is not uniform; a number of elementary schools have much higher ratios of one racial or ethnic group or another, reflecting their surrounding neighborhoods.

Additionally, about **11 percent** of the student population in 2000 had **limited proficiency in English**. Their major native languages were Hmong or Lao and Spanish. Providing English instruction and translation services to meet the needs of non-English-speaking families is a challenge for the Green Bay school district, like many other urban school districts.

The number of students eligible for **free and reduced-price lunch** is often an indicator of families in poverty within a school district. In January 2001, about **34 percent** of Green Bay district students were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

In 2000-01, just over **14 percent** of students were receiving some type of **special education**. Percentages were higher (about 21 percent) in middle and high schools; lower in elementary schools. As with English-language instruction, provision of special education services often falls disproportionately on urban school districts. This is also an area in which the Green Bay Area Public School District has developed greater experience and resources than many outlying districts.

District Planning for New Facilities

The school district has acquired four sites, two of them on the East Side of Green Bay, for future expansion:

- A 25-acre site at the corner of Humboldt and Grandview Roads, for an elementary school.
- A 72-acre site just south of the first site, south of Baird Creek between Erie and Grandview Roads. This site could accommodate a middle school and high school, or some other combination of facilities.
- A 10.5-acre site at Erie and Willow Roads in the Town of Bellevue, for an elementary school.
- A 12-acre site near Verlin Road and Guns Street in Bellevue, for an elementary school.

The phasing and configuration of these schools will depend on the district's enrollment needs, as projected. The two sites in Green Bay will be considered in the Comprehensive Plan process as part of land use planning for the East Side.

Major School District Physical Planning Issues

Since the School District conducts its own planning, the major issues involve coordination between the district's plans for expansion or consolidation and various aspects of the City's land use and park planning.

- **Site Design and Integration:** How should future school and school-park sites be designed in order to be integrated with future East Side neighborhoods? Should schools be designed so that some students can walk or bike to them?
- **Central Area Elementary Schools:** Should an additional elementary school be built in central Green Bay to better serve that burgeoning population which has high numbers of households in or near poverty and many children learning English as a second language?
- **Closure and Reuse:** Should schools with declining enrollments be closed or consolidated? If these schools are closed, how should the buildings be reused? Should they be retained for possible future conversion back to schools?
- **Competitiveness:** How can the City work with the school district to:
 - ensure that Green Bay schools are perceived as competitive with schools in outlying districts?
 - meet the challenges of English language instruction, special education, and the needs of low-income populations while maintaining high standards and achievement levels?
 - increase before- and after-school care to better meet the needs of working parents?
 - increase or enhance pre-school programs?

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- **Park / School Issues:** How do parks and open space planning issues affect combined school-park facilities? For example, are there additional park facilities that might also benefit school populations? Can environmental education programs in the schools be linked to park improvements?